

# Birds of Niaouli forest, southern Benin

Maarten van den Akker

La forêt de Niaouli se trouve sur le terrain d'une station de recherche agricole dans le sud du Bénin. Protégée depuis 1997, cette forêt semi-décidue de 150 ha (110 ha de forêt de plateau et 40 ha de forêt de bas-fonds) forme un îlot forestier dans la région. Des recherches ornithologiques ont été effectuées depuis 1997 pour établir un inventaire et étudier la migration intra-régionale. Au total, 166 espèces d'oiseaux ont été identifiées, dont 14 nouvelles pour le Bénin: l'Engoulevent à épauettes noires *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*, le Martin-pêcheur à ventre blanc *Corythornis leucogaster*, le Barbican chauve *Gymnobucco calvus*, le Barbion grivelé *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*, l'Indicateur pygmée *Prodotiscus insignis*, l'Indicateur tacheté *Indicator maculatus*, le Bulbul à queue blanche *Baeopogon indicator*, la Camaroptère à sourcils jaunes *Camaroptera superciliaris*, l'Erémomèle à tête brune *Eremomela badiceps*, l'Hylote à dos violet *Hyliota violacea*, l'Alakat à ailes rousses *Illadopsis rufescens*, la Mésangette rayée *Pholidornis rusbiae*, le Gonolek fuligineux *Laniarius leucorhynchus* et le Pyréneste ponceau *Pyrenestes ostrinus*.

Benin lies in the Dahomey Gap, a region characterised by relatively low annual rainfall (800–1,400 mm) and by the presence of savanna almost to the coast, with a near-complete lack of the tropical forest that is a feature of coastal zones in adjacent countries. Until the 1970s, however, the region between the coast and up to 150 km inland still held relatively large patches of tall forest, typical of the Guinea-Congo vegetation zone<sup>21</sup>. High human population in the tropical south, where densities reach 250–416 per sq km<sup>23</sup>, has resulted in virtually all of this forest being cleared for agriculture<sup>5,27</sup>. Only small 'islands' remain: typically sacred areas, small privately owned holdings, and some state-owned areas consisting of plantations and small parcels of secondary forest.

In 1997, the author initiated a forest protection programme in collaboration with the Dutch Embassy, Centre Béninois pour le Développement Durable (CBDD) and the Netherlands Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (NC-IUCN). This led to the protection of one of the remaining forest islands, at Niaouli. The main objective is the conservation of extant natural forest, as well as research on flora and fauna for environmental education and ecotourism.

Niaouli is situated c70 km north of Cotonou (06°44'N 02°09'E). The forest belongs to the national agricultural research station Niaouli Attoyon, and consists of a plateau (dry) forest and a wetter bas-fond (humid) forest covering 150 ha in total. A reforestation belt (15 ha) protects the forest against bush fire spreading from adjacent agriculture, and c20 ha of degraded forest have been reforested with indigenous trees, including flowering species, eg *Milicia excelsa* and *Cassia siamea*, to enable bee-keeping activities. Three local rangers enforce a hunting and cutting ban. Other measures have been designed to compensate local

villagers who previously used the area as a source of firewood and for hunting. Two ecological trails, one through each forest type, as well as an observation tower on the plateau, were constructed to facilitate education on environmental and natural resources.

Since 1997, several inventories have documented the flora and fauna. A detailed checklist of the avifauna is being prepared through regular field observations and mist-netting, with the aim of not only identifying which species use the forest but also their population densities.

In 2000, an additional small research project was established in five other forests in southern Benin. In each, an inventory is being prepared using the same methods as above, and birds are ringed with the help of the Institut für Vogelforschung 'Vogelwarte Helgoland' (Wilhelmshaven, Germany). One objective is to observe intra-regional migration of resident birds, between the remaining forest islands. For example, a Western Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra obscura* ringed at Niaouli on 26 October 2001 was caught, on 13 February 2002, at Pobé (06°58'N 02°40'E), c80 km north-east of Niaouli.

## The Benin literature

Such research will also contribute to our still limited knowledge of the Benin avifauna. In comparison with neighbouring countries, relatively little has been published on the ornithology of Benin, and as recently as 1993 evidence was available for the occurrence of only 425 species in the country<sup>15</sup>, although more recent work, including the present contribution, has increased this total to 570 species (Claffey pers comm).

The early literature is composed of contributions by specimen collectors<sup>13,24</sup>, while several administrators and missionaries made additions in the colonial period<sup>7,9,14</sup>.

These were relatively meagre, however, and do not compare with those for Togo, particularly in the early colonial period, when an important contribution was made to the knowledge of that country's avifauna<sup>10</sup>. In the post-colonial period there have been occasional studies and surveys, most notably Green & Sayer's survey of Arli and Pendjari National Parks<sup>18</sup>. Holyoak & Seddon<sup>20</sup> provided distributional notes from a brief visit to the country, while Claffey's survey of the Bétérou area, in 1987–1995<sup>11</sup>, covers an area much further to the north, including the classified forests of Ouari Maro, Monts Kouffé and the Ouémé Supérieur (08°30'–09°12'N 02°00'–02°16'E), as well as additional notes from Borgou and other areas. He also published several short notes during the 1990s.

Of forests in the south, Anciaux<sup>2</sup> inventoried the Allada Plateau, including Niaouli, in 1991–1994, recording 124 species. A preliminary inventory of Lama forest (06°55'–07°00'N 02°04'–02°12'E) was published by Waltert & Mühlenberg<sup>26</sup>, who recorded 106 species during 31 field days. More recently, Anciaux has published a study of intra-African migrants from work on the Allada Plateau and in the Lama depression<sup>3</sup>. Several unpublished reports, notably by Miriam Langeveld, who worked in the far north, have also been utilised in preparing the revised list of Benin birds (Claffey pers comm).

### Niaouli forest

For the purposes of the research the forest was considered to comprise two distinct sections. While there were many similarities in the avifauna of the two, some interesting differences were observed. A total of 166 species was found in Niaouli on 125 field days (see Appendix 1) during January 1997 to May 2002. Of these, 151 occurred in the plateau forest, while 105 species were observed in the bas-fond forest.

### Plateau forest

This forest covers c110 ha, including 25 ha of reforestation. Many of the semi-deciduous trees lose their leaves during the dry season (Fig 1). These consist of nine families and 13 species, eg *Ceiba pentandra* (Bombacaceae), *Triplochiton scleroxylon* (Sterculiaceae), *Antiaris toxicaria* and *Milicia excelsa* (Moraceae), and *Dialium guineense* (Caesalpinaceae). Typical bird species of the upper storey are: African Cuckoo Falcon *Aviceda cuculoides*, African Harrier Hawk *Polyboroides typus*, African Green Pigeon *Treron calva*, Green Turaco *Tauraco persa*, Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis*, Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco calvus*, Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor* and Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*. Understorey inhabitants include White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis*, Grey-headed Bristlebill *Bleda canicapilla*, Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens iboensis* and Chestnut Wattle-eye *Dyaphrophyia castanea*.

### Bas-fond forest

This forest is irrigated by three wells permitting evergreen vegetation throughout the year (Fig 2). It covers an area of c40 ha, including 10 ha of reforestation. The tree vegetation is much more diverse than in the plateau forest, consisting of 28 families and at least 63 species, eg *Symphonia globulifera* (Clusiaceae), *Cleistopholis patens* (Annonaceae), *Cola gigantea*, *C. millenii* and *C. nitida* (Sterculiaceae), *Musanga cecropioides* (Cecropiaceae), *Piptadeniastrum africanum* (Mimosaceae) and *Entandrophragma angolense* (Meliaceae) which in Benin occurs only in Niaouli. Differences in the vegetation are reflected in the avifauna. Typical species of the canopy include: Red-thighed Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythropus*, Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis rufogularis*, Western Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus* and Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus*, while in the understorey are Little Greenbul *Andropadus virens*, Western Olive Sunbird, Blue-billed Malimbe *Malimbus nitens* and Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina*.

### Discoveries and significant records

Of the 166 species observed (Appendix 1), 14 are additions to the preliminary Benin checklist (Claffey pers comm) and several others concern species for which there was little previous evidence. The first evidence of breeding in the country was noted for a number of species. Status in neighbouring Togo and Nigeria is taken from the respective checklists<sup>10,16</sup>. Among the most interesting records are the following.

#### Red-thighed Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythropus*

Uncommon resident in Benin (Claffey pers comm). Previously known only from January and April records in Arli and Pendjari Parks<sup>18</sup>. Several records at Niaouli including a female mist-netted on 5 October 2000 (wing length 174 mm, tarsus 43 mm, bill 12.5 mm, weight 133 g; Fig 3). The absence of white uppertail spots indicate the nominate race as would be expected (W S Clark pers comm). Green reported 'a very doubtful record of nesting' at Natitingou in 1978 (Claffey pers comm). I observed material being collected for a nest c40 m above ground, on 6 March 1999, while the male was observed bringing prey to the nest for the female, on 13–15 March 1999.

#### Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*

Only one previous record in the Forêt Classée de la Lama in 1994<sup>25</sup>. Recorded five times at Niaouli (in January 1997, August 1998 [three records] and March 2002) and twice at Lokoli marsh forest (07°03'N 02°16'E), in September 2001 and a juvenile on 25 January 2002.

#### Thick-billed Cuckoo *Pachycoccyx audeberti*

The only previous Benin record was one identified by call in the Forêt Classée de l'Ouémé Supérieur (Claffey pers comm). In Niaouli, recorded in June 1998, February and

March 1999, November 2001, and March–May 2002. A noisy bird, identified in flight by its slow wing action, and confirmed by its very characteristic vocalisation. Rare resident in Togo and recorded in Nigeria. Rare and patchily distributed in West Africa<sup>6</sup>.

**Black-shouldered Nightjar** *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*  
Previously unknown in Benin. Recorded at four different forests in southern Benin in January–March 2002. In Niaouli, the species was identified by voice three times, usually at sunset and dawn. During a full moon it was heard calling throughout the night, at intervals of 8–10 seconds, and once two individuals called simultaneously. One was mist-netted on 24 February 2002, in a humid area of Lokoli (wing length 149 mm, tarsus 14 mm, bill 13.5 mm, tail 124 mm, weight 42 g; Fig 4). Rare resident in Togo but not uncommon in Nigeria.

**White-bellied Kingfisher** *Corythornis leucogaster*  
Not previously recorded in Benin. One record near the plateau on 11 February 1997. Separated from Malachite Kingfisher *C. cristata* by its white belly and the forest habitat<sup>6</sup>, it was perched on the lowest branch of a teak tree at the limit between forest and adjacent agricultural land. Rare resident in Togo and an uncommon resident in Nigeria.

**Naked-faced Barbet** *Gymnobucco calvus*  
Not previously recorded in Benin. Gregarious and very common, with several large colonies in Niaouli. An easily distinguished, dull, thick-billed bird, it often exhibits woodpecker-like behaviour when searching for insects in dead trees. Common to locally abundant resident in Togo and Nigeria.

**Speckled Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*  
Not previously recorded in Benin but probably overlooked as its secretive behaviour makes it difficult to observe in the understorey. Sixteen records in 1997–2001, with singles mist-netted on 21 February 1999, 20 September 2000, 26 October 2001 (wing length 54 mm, tarsus 14 mm, bill 14 mm, tail 31 mm, weight 16 g) and 16 May 2002 (wing length 54 mm, tarsus 13 mm, bill 15.5 mm, tail 30 mm, weight 15 g; Fig 5). Common resident in Togo and Nigeria.

**Cassin's Honeybird** *Prodotiscus insignis*  
Not previously recorded in Benin. Inconspicuous and secretive, and thus easily overlooked. Nine observations: April 1997, June and August 1998, February 1999, November 2000 and March 2001. Identification was based on behaviour, shy and flycatcher-like<sup>6</sup>, small pointed bill and remarkable white outertail feathers. Rare resident in Togo and an uncommon resident in Nigeria.

**Spotted Honeyguide** *Indicator maculatus*  
Not previously recorded in Benin. One, in June 1998, within scrub forest adjacent to the tall forest of Niaouli. A dark olive-green honeyguide, identification was based on the remarkable stripes on the belly and white undertail feathers with clearly visible dark barring. Uncommon resident in Togo and a rare resident in Nigeria.

**Honeyguide Greenbul** *Baeopogon indicator*  
Not previously recorded in Benin. Three records (9 January and 20 February 1997, and 9 April 1998) within mixed-species flocks, and a lone observation on 12 August 1998. All were in the lower storey. Similar to a honeyguide but more bulbul-like, the identification was based on the white outertail feathers while the white eye was noted on two individuals. Not uncommon resident in Togo and Nigeria.

**Red-tailed Greenbul** *Criniger calurus*  
First recorded in Benin from Niaouli on 20 February and 5 March 1999<sup>1</sup>. Another was mist-netted on 28 November 2000. Very common in Lokoli marsh forest. Not uncommon resident in Togo and a common resident in Nigeria.

**Yellow-browed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera supercilii*  
Not previously recorded in Benin. Six records (14 January, 20 May, 21 June and 30 July 1997, and 3 June and 18 August 1998). Identification of this small, short-tailed species was based on the yellow-olive upperparts, dull white underparts and obvious yellow supercilium. Uncommon resident in Togo and Nigeria.

**Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eremomela badiceps*  
Not previously recorded in Benin. Three records, on 4 and 12 August 1998, and 20 February 1999. Identification was based on habitat, mid-storey of the forest<sup>6</sup>, typical insectivorous behaviour, the white throat, black breast-band and grey-white belly. Not uncommon resident in Togo and Nigeria.

**Violet-backed Hylia** *Hylia violacea*  
Not previously recorded in Benin. A male was seen at close range from the observation tower on 15 May 2002, and identified by its remarkably dark upperparts, tail and head, white belly, and very active behaviour in the mid-storey, where it fed horizontally on the underside of leaves. Uncommon resident in Togo. Mackworth-Praed & Grant<sup>22</sup> state that it also occurs east from Togo but there is only one previous record, in 1986, of this subspecies (*nehrkorni*) in Nigeria.

**Rufous-winged Illadopsis** *Illadopsis rufescens*  
Not previously recorded in Benin. One was mist-netted on 7 June 2001 (wing length 77 mm, tarsus 26 mm, bill 18 mm, tail 60 mm, weight 37 g; Fig 6). Despite the resemblance

to Puvél's Illadopsis *I. puveli*, which also occurs in Niaouli, the mensural data and photographs permitted its identification as *I. rufescens* (L D C Fishpool pers comm). Listed as Near Threatened<sup>12</sup>, it is a rare resident in Togo, with only one record. The present record extends its range further east.

#### Tit-hylia *Pholidornis rufibae*

Not previously recorded in Benin. Ten records: in February (two), April, May (two), June and July 1997, and June and August (two) 1998. This tiny finch-like bird was identified by its pale brown, finely streaked head, throat and breast, and brown upperparts. Often in small groups of 4–6 individuals. Rare resident in Togo and a locally not uncommon resident in Nigeria.

#### Sabine's Puffback *Dryoscopus sabini*

Previously known in Benin only from Brunel's specimen in Museum national d'Histoire naturelle (Paris), which has been identified as *D. s. sabini*<sup>4</sup>. Two records, on 13 March and 20 June 2001. Both were males, the first was within a large mixed-species flock in the mid-storey and the second was searching for insects in the lower canopy. They were distinguished by the obvious white belly and rump, and black head, back and tail. Uncommon resident in Togo and Nigeria.

#### Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus*

Not previously recorded in Benin. Two singles on 27 March 1999. This is the only bush-shrike that is all black, with a large black bill and black legs, and that is found in lowland forest<sup>17</sup>. Behaviour is closer to that of a true shrike. Rare resident in Togo (only one record) and Nigeria.

#### Black-bellied Seedcracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus*

Not previously recorded in Benin. Although Mackworth-Praed & Grant<sup>22</sup> extrapolated that it occurred in the country, no documentation was available. Two were mist-netted, a male on 10 February 2001 (wing length 63 mm, tarsus 19 mm, bill 15.5 mm, tail 49 mm, weight 21.5 g; Fig 7) and a female on 30 January 2002 (wing length 69 mm, tarsus 17.5 mm, bill 16.5 mm, tail 53 mm, weight 21 g; Fig 8). Uncommon resident in Togo and Nigeria.

### How to reach Niaouli

The forest is situated c1 hour north of Cotonou and 5 km from Allada, near Attoyon. Follow the sign for the Centre Régional de Recherche Agricole, Niaouli for 3 km. The research station is on the left. Register at the small visitors centre. Reliable guides with good knowledge of the project, as well as the flora and fauna, are available, and it is possible to stay overnight.

### Acknowledgements

F. Toornstra, of the Ambassade Royale des Pays Bas (Netherlands), in Benin, encouraged me to commence the project. Financial support was provided by the Ambassade Royale des Pays Bas in Benin, NC-IUCN and CBDD. J. Kamstra and G. Agbangla are especially thanked for their support. For scientific advice I am indebted to Dr L.D.C. Fishpool (BirdLife International), W. S. Clark (Raptors) and Prof F. Bairlein (Institut für Vogelforschung 'Vogelwarte Helgoland'), and T. Lougbegnon for his assistance during the field work. Patrick M. Claffey provided considerable assistance in editing the second draft, as well as important additional data and references. 🐦

### References

1. van den Akker, M. 2000. Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus* and Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch *Nigrita bicolor*, new to Bénin. *Bull. ABC* 7: 133.
2. Anciaux, M.-R. 1996. Aperçu de l'avifaune dans différents milieux de l'intérieur des terres du Sud-Bénin. Plateau d'Allada et sud de la dépression de la Lama. *Cahiers d'Ethologie* 16: 79–98.
3. Anciaux, M.-R. 2000. Approche de la phénologie de la migration des migrateurs intra-africains de l'intérieur des terres du Sud-Bénin (plateau d'Allada et sud de la dépression de la Lama: 1. Les non passériformes et les non-Coraciiformes. *Alauda* 68: 311–320
4. Berlioz, J. 1956. Etude d'une collection d'oiseaux du Dahomey. *Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat.* 28: 17–264.
5. Bohlinger, B. 1998. *Diespontanen Vegetation in traditionellen Anbausystemen Benins—ihre Bedeutung und Möglichkeiten des Managements*. Stuttgart: W. & S. Koch Verlag.
6. Borrow, N. & Demey, R. 2001. *Birds of Western Africa*. London, UK: Christopher Helm.
7. Bouet, G. 1914. Liste des oiseaux recueillis ou observés au Dahomey de 1908 à 1911. *Rev. Française d'Ornithologie* 3: 263–269, 304–308.
8. Brown, L.H., Urban E.K. and Newman, K. (eds) 1982. *The Birds of Africa*. Vol 1. London, UK: Academic Press.
9. Brunel, J. 1958. Observations sur les oiseaux du Bas-Dahomey. *Oiseau et RFO* 28: 1–38.
10. Cheke, R.A. and Walsh, J.F. 1996. *The Birds of Togo: an annotated check-list*. BOU check-list No. 14. Tring: British Ornithologists' Union.
11. Claffey, P.M. 1995. Notes on the avifauna of the Bétérou area, Borgou Province, Republic of Benin. *Malimbus* 17: 63–84.
12. Collar, N.J. and Stuart, S.N. 1985 *Threatened Birds of Africa and Related Islands: The ICBP/IUCN Red Data Book*. Cambridge, UK: International Council for Bird Preservation.
13. De Sousa, J.A. 1887. Aves de Dahomey. *J. Cienc. Math. Phys. Nat.* 44.
14. Douaud, J. 1953. Observations faites en mer le long de la côte occidentale d'Afrique. 15. *Alauda* 21: 179–185.
15. Dowsett R.J. and Dowsett-Lemaire F. 1993. *A Contribution to the Distribution and Taxonomy of*

*Afrotropical and Malagasy Birds*. Tauraco Research Report No. 5, Liège: Tauraco Press.

16. Elgood, J.H., Heigham, J.G., Moore, A.M., Nason, A.M., Sharland, R.E. and Skinner, N.J. 1994. *The Birds of Nigeria: an annotated check-list*. BOU Check-list No. 4. Second edition. Tring: British Ornithologists' Union.
17. Fry, C.H., Keith, S. and Urban, E.K. (eds) 2000. *The Birds of Africa*. Vol 6. London, UK: Academic Press.
18. Green, A.A. and Sayer, J.A. 1979. The birds of the Pendjari and Arli National Parks. *Malimbus* 1: 14–19.
19. Grimes, L.G. 1987. *The Birds of Ghana: an annotated check-list*. BOU Check-list No. 9. Tring: British Ornithologists' Union.
20. Holyoak D.T. and Seddon, M.B. 1990. Distributional notes on the birds of Benin. *Malimbus* 11: 128–131.
21. Knapp R. 1973. *Die Vegetation von Afrika*. Stuttgart: Fischer Verlag.
22. Mackworth-Praed, C.W. and Grant, C.H.B. 1973. *Birds of West Central and Western Africa*. Vol 2. London, UK: Longman.
23. MPRE 1994. *Deuxième Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitation (RGPH)*. Tome 1. Cotonou: MPRE.
24. Oustalet, G. 1898. Catalogues des oiseaux du Dahomey remis par M. Miegemarque au Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle en 1895. *Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat.* 8: 361–364.
25. Sinsin, B., 1995. *La Forêt Classée de la Lama: aperçu général d'un écosystème naturel aménagé dans un environnement socio-économique*. Notes du Laboratoire d'Ecologie Appliquée de la FSA/UN Bénin No. 3.
26. Waltert, M. and Mühlenberg, M. 1999. Notes on the avifauna of the Noyau Central, Forêt Classée de la Lama, Republic of Benin. *Malimbus* 21: 82–92.
27. Wezel, A., Bohlinger, B. and Böcker, R. 2000. Vegetation zones in Niger and Benin—present and past zonation. In: *Atlas of natural and agronomic resources of Niger and Benin*. CD edition. Stuttgart: University of Hohenheim.

04 BP 1556 Cadjehoun, Cotonou, Republic of Benin. E-mail: [impetus.cotonou@firstnet1.com](mailto:impetus.cotonou@firstnet1.com) or [vdakker@uni-bohenheim.de](mailto:vdakker@uni-bohenheim.de)

Captions to photos on facing page

- Figure 1. Plateau forest at Niaouli, Benin (Maarten van den Akker)
- Figure 2. Bas-fond forest, Niaouli, Benin (Maarten van den Akker)
- Figure 3. Western Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythropus*, bas-fond forest, Niaouli, Benin, 5 October 2000 (Maarten van den Akker)
- Figure 4. Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*, Lokoli marsh forest, Benin, 24 February 2002 (Maarten van den Akker)
- Figure 5. Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*, Niaouli plateau forest, Benin, 16 May 2002 (Maarten van den Akker)
- Figure 6. Rufous-winged Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufescens*, Niaouli plateau forest, Benin, 7 June 2001 (Maarten van den Akker)
- Figure 7. Male Black-bellied Seedcracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus*, bas-fond forest, Niaouli, Benin, 10 February 2001 (Maarten van den Akker)
- Figure 8. Female Black-bellied Seedcracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus*, bas-fond forest, Niaouli, Benin, 30 January 2002 (Maarten van den Akker)

**Appendix 1.** Species observed in Niaouli forest, January 1997–May 2002 and their abundance

Categories used to record abundance at Niaouli forest follow those used in the Ghana checklist<sup>19</sup>.

Abundant (A)	invariably encountered with little effort, in large numbers in preferred habitat
Common (C)	invariably encountered singly or in small numbers in preferred habitat
Not uncommon (NUC)	often, but not invariably, met with in preferred habitat
Uncommon (UC)	infrequent and sporadic in preferred habitat
Rare (R)	rarely seen, often implying fewer than ten records

Nomenclature follows *Birds of Africa* Vols 1–6 and Borrow & Demey<sup>6</sup>.

<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	R
<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	C
<i>Butorides striatus</i>	Green Heron	NUC
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	R
<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>	African Cuckoo Falcon	C
<i>Machaeramphus alcinus</i>	Bat Hawk	NUC
<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Black-shouldered Kite	NUC
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	A
<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	African Harner Hawk	NUC
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harner	R
<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>	African Goshawk	C
<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Shikra	C
<i>Accipiter erythropus</i>	Red-thighed Sparrowhawk	NUC
<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>	Black Sparrowhawk	R
<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	Lizard Buzzard	C
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel	UC
<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>	Grey Kestrel	UC
<i>Falco cuvieri</i>	African Hobby	UC
<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Lanner Falcon	R
<i>Francolinus bicalcaratus</i>	Double-spurred Francolin	A
<i>Amaurornis flavirostris</i>	Black Crane	C
<i>Podica senegalensis</i>	African Finfoot	R
<i>Actophilornis africana</i>	African Jacana	C
<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	Greater Painted-snipe	R
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank	R
<i>Treron calva</i>	African Green Pigeon	C
<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>	Tambourine Dove	C
<i>Turtur aler</i>	Blue-spotted Wood Dove	C
<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	Red-eyed Dove	C
<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Laughing Dove	R
<i>Tauraco persa</i>	Green Turaco	C
<i>Cinifer piscator</i>	Western Grey Plain-eater	R
<i>Oxylophus levillantii</i>	African Striped Cuckoo	UC
<i>Pachyococcyx audeberti</i>	Thick-billed Cuckoo	UC
<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>	Black Cuckoo	R
<i>Cuculus gularis</i>	African Cuckoo	UC
<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>	African Emerald Cuckoo	R
<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	Klaas's Cuckoo	C
<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>	Didric Cuckoo	UC
<i>Ceuthmochares aereus</i>	Yellowbill	C
<i>Centropus grillii</i>	Black Coucal	R
<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	Senegal Coucal	C
<i>Centropus senegalensis epomidis</i>	Senegal Coucal	C
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	NUC
<i>Strix woodfordii</i>	African Wood Owl	C
<i>Caprimulgus nigriscapularis</i>	Black-shouldered Nightjar	R
<i>Caprimulgus inornatus</i>	Plain Nightjar	C
<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>	Mottled Spinetail	R



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	African Palm Swift	C	<i>Sylvia bonin</i>	Garden Warbler	R
<i>Apus affinis</i>	Little Swift	C	<i>Melanerpes edoloides</i>	Northern Black Flycatcher	R
<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	Woodland Kingfisher	C	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher	R
<i>Ceyx picta</i>	African Pygmy Kingfisher	NUC	<i>Muscicapa ussheri</i>	Ussher's Flycatcher	R
<i>Corythornis leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Kingfisher	R	<i>Muscicapa caeruleascens</i>	Ashy Flycatcher	R
<i>Corythornis cristata</i>	Malachite Kingfisher	R	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>	Grey Tit Flycatcher	R
<i>Merops albicollis</i>	White-throated Bee-eater	C	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Pied Flycatcher	R
<i>Merops nubicus</i>	Carmine Bee-eater	R	<i>Bias flammulatus</i>	Shrike Flycatcher	R
<i>Eurystomus gularis</i>	Blue-throated Roller	NUC	<i>Dyaphrophya castanea</i>	Chestnut Wattle-eye	C
<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	Broad-billed Roller	C	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>	Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	C
<i>Tockus albocristatus</i>	White-crested Hornbill	R	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	African Paradise Flycatcher	C
<i>Tockus fasciatus semifasciatus</i>	African Pied Hornbill	A	<i>Illadopsis puvelli</i>	Puvel's Illadopsis	R
<i>Tockus nasutus</i>	African Grey Hornbill	R	<i>Illadopsis rufescens</i>	Rufous-winged Illadopsis	R
<i>Gymnobucco calvus</i>	Naked-faced Barbet	C	<i>Illadopsis fulvescens iboensis</i>	Brown Illadopsis	C
<i>Pogoniulus scolopaceus</i>	Speckled Tinkerbird	NUC	<i>Pholidornis rushiae</i>	Tit-hylia	UC
<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>	Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	R	<i>Cyanomitra obscura</i>	Western Olive Sunbird	A
<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	R	<i>Chalcomitra adelberti</i>	Buff-throated Sunbird	UC
<i>Buccanodon duchaillui</i>	Yellow-spotted Barbet	R	<i>Hedydipna collans</i>	Collared Sunbird	C
<i>Prodotiscus insignis</i>	Cassin's Honeybird	UC	<i>Cinnynis chloropygia</i>	Olive-bellied Sunbird	C
<i>Indicator maculatus</i>	Spotted Honeyguide	R	<i>Cinnynis venusta</i>	Variable Sunbird	C
<i>Dendropicos pyrrhogaster</i>	Fire-bellied Woodpecker	C	<i>Cinnynis superba</i>	Superb Sunbird	UC
<i>Mirafra rufocinnamomea</i>	Flappet Lark	R	<i>Cinnynis coccinigaster</i>	Splendid Sunbird	UC
<i>Hirundo senegalensis</i>	Mosque Swallow	R	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>	Northern Puffback	R
<i>Hirundo abyssinica</i>	Lesser Striped Swallow	UC	<i>Dryoscopus sabinii</i>	Sabine's Puffback	R
<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	Wire-tailed Swallow	UC	<i>Tchagra australis</i>	Brown-crowned Tchagra	R
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	C	<i>Lanius leucorhynchus</i>	Sooty Boubou	R
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail	R	<i>Nicator chloris</i>	Western Nicator	C
<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	African Pied Wagtail	R	<i>Prionops caniceps</i>	Red-billed Helmet-shrike	C
<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>	Plain-backed Pipit	NUC	<i>Dicurus adsimilis</i>	Fork-tailed Drongo	C
<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>	Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike	R	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>	African Golden Oriole	R
<i>Campephaga quiscalina</i>	Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike	R	<i>Oriolus brachyrhynchus</i>	Western Black-headed Oriole	C
<i>Andropadus virens</i>	Little Greenbul	A	<i>Onychognathus fulgidus</i>	Chestnut-winged Starling	C
<i>Andropadus curvirostris</i>	Plain Greenbul	C	<i>Lamprotornis purpureiceps</i>	Purple-headed Glossy Starling	R
<i>Andropadus gracilirostris</i>	Slender-billed Greenbul	R	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>	Splendid Glossy Starling	NUC
<i>Baeopogon indicator</i>	Honeyguide Greenbul	R	<i>Cinnycinclus leucogaster</i>	Violet-backed Starling	R
<i>Chlorocichla simplex</i>	Simple Greenbul	NUC	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>	Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver	R
<i>Thescelocichla leucopleura</i>	Swamp Palm Bulbul	C	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	Village Weaver	A
<i>Pyrrhurus scandens</i>	Leaf-Love	NUC	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus castaneofuscus</i>	Viellot's Black Weaver	C
<i>Phyllastrephus albigularis</i>	White-throated Greenbul	C	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus nigerrimus</i>	Viellot's Black Weaver	R
<i>Bleda canicapilla</i>	Grey-headed Bristlebill	C	<i>Ploceus tricolor</i>	Yellow-mantled Weaver	C
<i>Criniger calurus</i>	Red-tailed Greenbul	R	<i>Ploceus superciliosus</i>	Compact Weaver	R
<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	Common Bulbul	A	<i>Malimbus nitens</i>	Blue-billed Malimbe	C
<i>Stiphornis erythrothorax</i>	Forest Robin	C	<i>Malimbus scutatus</i>	Red-vented Malimbe	R
<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	Snowy-crowned Robin Chat	C	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>	Red-headed Malimbe	C
<i>Turdus pelios</i>	African Thrush	C	<i>Quelea erythrops</i>	Red-headed Quelea	R
<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Eurasian Reed Warbler	R	<i>Amblyospiza albitrons</i>	Grosbeak Weaver	R
<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Great Reed Warbler	R	<i>Nigrita canicapilla</i>	Grey-crowned Nigrofinch	C
<i>Hippolais pallida</i>	Olivaceous Warbler	R	<i>Nigrita fusconota</i>	White-breasted Nigrofinch	R
<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	Melodious Warbler	R	<i>Nigrita bicolor</i>	Chestnut-breasted Nigrofinch	R
<i>Prinia subflava</i>	Tawny-flanked Prinia	C	<i>Pyrenestes ostrinus</i>	Black-bellied Seedcracker	R
<i>Apalis rufogularis</i>	Buff-throated Apalis	R	<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>	Western Bluebill	C
<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>	Grey-backed Camaroptera	C	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>	Blue-billed Firefinch	R
<i>Camaroptera superciliaris</i>	Yellow-browed Camaroptera	UC	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>	Bronze Mannikin	UC
<i>Camaroptera chloronata</i>	Olive-green Camaroptera	C	<i>Lonchura bicolor</i>	Black-and-white Mannikin	C
<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>	Senegal Eremomela	R	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	Pin-tailed Whydah	R
<i>Eremomela badiceps</i>	Rufous-crowned Eremomela	UC	<i>Serinus leucopygius</i>	White-rumped Seedeater	R
<i>Sylvietta virens</i>	Green Crombec	NUC			
<i>Macrosphenus concolor</i>	Grey Longbill	UC			
<i>Hylia violacea</i>	Violet-backed Hylia	R			
<i>Hylia prasina</i>	Green Hylia	C			
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler	R			
<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Wood Warbler	R			